GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1199
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
YOGA CLASSES AT TAJ
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any provisions to allow commercial activities in a monument protected by the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some US nationals were allowed to hold yoga classes at the Taj in the presence of Central Industrial Security Force on Christmas Day last year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any action has been taken against the persons for violating the ASI Act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a)&(b) Under Rule 8(d) of the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules 1959, certain activities e.g. selling of information literature, souvenirs relating to protected monuments/sites, photography, guiding facility etc. are allowed in accordance with the conditions of, a licence granted by the competent authority.

(c)&(d) No, Sir. However, it is reported by the field office that one Shri Vikram Choudhary and a small group of his disciples enacted certain Yoga postures in the main podium of Taj Mahal on 25th Dec.2004.

(e)&(f) The field office took immediate action by filing a F.I.R. with the local police against Shri Vikram Choudhary and his group. Departmental Enquiry has also been conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India and Central Industrial Security Force.